

# UConn HEALTH

## UConn Health Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: August 25, 2021

### General Questions

#### **Q. Why is UConn Health mandating COVID-19 vaccinations?**

A. UConn Health is committed to protecting our patients, staff, learners, and the community from COVID-19. In our continued effort to protect our UConn Health community, and in consideration of guidance released by the Connecticut Hospital Association, the state of Connecticut, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and a variety of public health authorities and professional organizations, UConn Health is joining many other health systems in the country to mandate vaccination for its workforce. These organizations believe, and we agree, that the COVID-19 vaccines that are available are safe and effective, and that being vaccinated against COVID-19 is the best way to prevent sickness, infection, and subsequent transmission of the virus. With the emergence of the Delta variant, a highly contagious version of COVID-19, we feel strongly that widespread vaccination, now more than ever, is a critical tool in slowing or stopping the pandemic and in protecting our community.

#### **Q. I am a UConn Storrs/Regional Employee. Am I subject to the UConn Health policy?**

A. No. While our policies and procedures are similar with UConn Storrs/Regional, they do vary slightly due to our clinical, patient, and medical center responsibilities here at UConn Health. UConn-Storrs employees who work in UConn Health facilities should follow the policies and procedures established for UConn Storrs/Regional employees regarding required COVID-19 vaccines. For information on the UConn Storrs/Regional policy, please go to [their website](#).

#### **Q: Who is included in this mandatory vaccination policy?**

A: The COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Policy applies to all UConn Health employees, volunteers, medical staff, and any contracted individual receiving a UConn Health-issued badge (referred to as **Workforce Members** throughout). Please note, Workforce Members represented by bargaining units under the jurisdiction of the State's Office of Labor Relations (OLR-OPM) are not currently subject to mandatory vaccination requirements of this policy until negotiations have concluded. They are subject to the mandatory reporting, testing and health and safety requirements if unvaccinated.

**Q. I work fully remote or in a non-clinical environment. Do I need to comply with this policy?**

A. Yes. This policy applies to all of our workforce, regardless of whether they work on-site or remotely.

**Q. Are there any exemptions to this policy?**

A. Yes. For more information on exemptions, please review our policy [guidance and procedures](#) or scroll to the Exemptions section of the FAQ.

**Q. When are the deadlines for vaccination(s)?**

A: All Workforce Members must receive their first dose of the vaccine (and upload proof of vaccination) no later than **September 10, 2021** and any applicable second dose (and upload proof of vaccination) no later than **October 15, 2021**. Workforce Members will not be considered to have met these deadlines without uploading proof of vaccination.

**Q. Do I have until October 15 if I choose to receive the single dose vaccine?**

A. No. Proof of vaccination (whether that be a first dose or a single dose vaccine) must be provided by **September 10, 2021**.

**Q. Where can I schedule a COVID-19 vaccination?**

A. Appointments can be scheduled in a variety of ways, including:

- Through [UConn Health myChart](#)
- By calling the Vaccine Call Center at 860-679-5589
- By visiting the Outpatient Pavilion 1st floor (walk-ins welcome for first doses only)
  - Hours of operation:

- Monday: 1 PM-3:30 PM
  - Tuesday: 1 PM-3:30 PM
  - Wednesday: 7 AM-12 PM
  - Thursday: 1 PM-3:30 PM
  - Friday: 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
  - Saturday: 7:30 AM-10:30 AM
  - Sunday: Closed
- Through your own medical provider if you are not a UConn Health patient
  - By scheduling through another provider identified through the [state's vaccination portal](#).

**Q. Will getting the vaccine cost me money?**

A. No. There are no out-of-pocket expenses to individuals who receive their COVID-19 vaccine at UConn Health. Insurance will be billed for administration of the vaccine, but copays or additional expenses to the patient are never charged.

**Q. Do I have to receive my vaccination at UConn Health?**

A. No. Workforce Members are not required to receive vaccination at UConn Health, but are encouraged to do so.

**Q. Which vaccines are being accepted through this policy?**

A. Workforce Members will meet the COVID-19 vaccine requirement if they have been vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine that has either been authorized for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or been authorized for use outside of the United States by the World Health Organization (WHO). Workforce Members who have received a COVID-19 vaccine that does not meet the above criteria will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Q. If I feel sick after my vaccination, will UConn Health provide me with paid leave?**

A. Workforce members feeling sick after the vaccination should request sick time off in accordance with their regular call-out procedures.

**Q. I recently received and accepted an offer of employment at UConn Health. Does this policy apply to me?**

A. Yes. New hires at UConn Health are required to have at least one dose of an authorized vaccine or have an approved exemption by their first day of employment.

**Q. I work on the evening or night shift in the hospital. Will I be able to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during my shift?**

A. At this time, no. We are continuing to evaluate ways to make the vaccine more accessible to evening or night shift Workforce Members and will communicate with more information as it becomes available. However, vaccines are widely available in Connecticut by scheduling through another provider identified through the [state's vaccination portal](#).

**Q. Where can I get more information on the COVID-19 vaccines?**

A. UConn Health has a separate FAQ for general vaccine-related questions located [here](#). We continue to update our FAQs in accordance with changing guidance.

**Q. Will UConn Health require COVID-19 vaccine booster shots?**

A. We are currently monitoring recommendations for booster doses for the general public in the coming weeks and months. We will communicate any subsequent information or decisions as they become available. For more information on third doses, please review our [third dose FAQ](#).

**Q. I got my vaccine at UConn Health. Do I still need to provide proof of vaccination?**

A. Yes. Regardless of where you received your vaccination, we ask that you upload proof of vaccination in accordance with our policy.

**Q. What types of proof of vaccination is UConn Health accepting?**

A. Acceptable forms of proof of vaccination include your COVID-19 Vaccination Card or by taking a screenshot of your MyChart vaccination record, making sure to include the dates and type of vaccine. Please ensure that your MyChart vaccination record does not include any additional medical information.

**Q: What if I lost my COVID-19 Vaccination Card? How do I obtain proof of vaccination?**

A: If you have lost your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, did not receive your vaccination through MyChart, and are unable to get an additional copy from your provider, you may call the Department of Public Health (DPH) at (860) 509-7929 to request your Official Immunization Certificate from the CT Immunization

Information System (CT WiZ) at the Department of Public Health. You can also get your official immunization record directly through the [CT WiZ Public Portal](#), maintained by DPH. For more information on how to use this secure portal, visit DPH's information about the [Connecticut Immunization Program](#).

**Q. I work at UConn Health, but I am a contractor. How do I provide proof of vaccination or request an exemption?**

A. Contractors not directly employed by UConn Health will not follow the same process to demonstrate their vaccination status. Instead, UConn Health will require the companies with whom we contract to enforce the mandatory vaccination policy with their employees working in or on UConn Health facilities or properties. Contracted companies will be required to attest to such compliance in accordance with our policy.

**Q. Will UConn Health accept proof of vaccination obtained in another country?**

A. Yes. Though UConn Health encourages its workforce to receive FDA-approved vaccinations, we will accept proof of vaccinations that have been authorized by the World Health Organization (WHO). International Workforce Members must present proof of vaccination in the form of a copy of the WHO Certificate of Vaccination (WHO Vaccine Booklet) or documentation to include a statement signed by a healthcare provider/organization authorized to administer the vaccination attesting to the dates and name of COVID-19 vaccination given. All documentation must be submitted in English or accompanied by a certified translation at the Workforce Member's expense. Please contact Human Resources at [VAXQuestion@uchc.edu](mailto:VAXQuestion@uchc.edu) for further information on submitting and uploading your proof of vaccination.